

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING CITY HALL – 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	4	3
Brucie Cummings	P	6	1
Caleb Gunter	P	6	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	7	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	7	0
Darren Heitner	P	5	2
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	7	0
Gale Butler	P	5	2
Greg Martin	P	6	0
Jo Ann Smith	P	5	2
Marianna Seiler	P	6	1
Mary Peloquin	P	7	0
Robert Payne	P	4	3
Steffi Paskow	P	4	1
Tangerean Moore	P	7	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, *Director*

Carl Williams, *Deputy Director*

Enrique Sanchez, *Deputy Director*

Stephanie McClary, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Roll Call

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Mary Peloquin, that the minutes of June 23, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that a new event has been implemented called Pre-Labor Day event on the Galt on September 4th, 2021 from 1pm to 9pm. Mr. Williams stated the event will be held on NE 32nd, 33rd and 34th street and will have live music, face painting and a car show. Mr. Williams invited the board to Jazz Brunch held on September 6, 2021. Mr. Williams stated on September 3rd, 2021 will be the official opening on the pickleball courts that are located at Sunrise middle and will be available during non-school hours, weekend, and holidays. Mr. Williams stated that that Parks and Recreation has a brand-new website and working through web master concerns and would like the board to review and give feedback on the new website. Mr. Williams stated if you go to City of Fort Lauderdale homepage and click on Parks and Recreation it should direct you to the new website. Mr. Williams stated that the tennis courts at Sunrise Middle has been renovated and add 6 pickle ball courts.

Board member Brucie Cummings question if the pickle ball lines are accurate at Hardy Park.

2. Parker Playhouse, Aquatic Center, and War Memorial Update

Director Phil Thornburg mention to the board that Parker Playhouse will be officially opening in about one month and start to have events. Mr. Thornburg stated it would be a nice venue in Holiday Park. Mr. Thornburg mention that the aquatic center and pools is moving forward and should be done after the first year into spring and start working on the south building to tear down and renovate and should be completed late fall and early winter of 2022. Mr. Thornburg mention to the board that War Memorial is still pending construction and predicting to be complete in a year late summer or fall of 2022. Mr. Thornburg mention the YMCA on Sistrunk is almost finished and he spoke to the CEO and believes November of this year it should be completed. Mr. Thornburg added that they decided to build another one at Holiday Park just south by the check cashing store and had a great donation and moving forward with that. Mr. Thornburg stated that they want to build a pool, but it is no pool in the plans which cost over 2 million dollars and looking for opportunities to raise the funding for the pool to go along with the building at Holiday Park. Mr. Thornburg confirmed that will be build west of Parker Playhouse and south of the Check Cashing Store off Federal Highway.

3. Parks Bond Update

Director Phil Thornburg mention to the board that the Tunnel Top park is taking a lead on the project and starting with the tunnel rehabilitation first. Mr. Thornburg mention the traffic will be a challenge for some time because they are doing work on both lanes north and south. Mr. Thornburg stated the estimate Tunnel Top park completion is scheduled for late 2023. Mr. Thornburg stated that Carter Park has moved forward with the design phase and plans are to build a brand-new community center and consolidate the 3-5 buildings. Mr. Thornburg mention to the board that Lockhart property is in commission discussion regarding future ideas and staff is on

hold from doing in work with Lockhart until they get permission from commission to move forward. Holiday park design is complete, and a meeting is scheduled on September 1st, 2021 with the homeowner's association in Victoria Park to give their first input and thoughts. Mr. Thornburg mention once feedback is given from the homeowner's association, they will modify the design and continue the work; however, it will take more time, because of what Holiday Park has to offer and its interest. Mr. Thornburg stated that the design consultant will be presenting at the homeowner's association meeting and he will be there to answer questions. Mr. Thornburg stated that the design is on the website if you go on Phase 1 it will show you the design phase for the parks. Mr. Thornburg stated that the athletic field lights are going to be completed soon. Mr. Thornburg stated that the city is working on the project instead of hiring a consultant, because it will be inexpensive and efficient for the city to do the project in house. Mr. Thornburg then added that the project will start in October. Mr. Thornburg added that the funding got approved by the commission and the contractor has been notified and currently buying the supplies to add the new LED lights and new technology. Mr. Thornburg confirmed the lights being done by Mosco.

Board member Tangerean Moore asked about the status on the One Stop Shop space and inquiring if it's still in the plans for green space.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the item is with city commission and may be reviewed sometime in September with the idea of solicited proposal to do a food hall and improvements to the property. Mr. Thornburg stated that the property is not in the park inventory and if it comes to the department, they will then get involved; however, the decision is up to the city commission.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated that the One Stop Shop is commercial and never zone a park and noticed that Hardy Park is not zoned a park. Ms. Cummings stated that it is one of her concerns that Hardy Park and One Stop Shop not zoned a park.

Mr. Thornburg stated that he will look further investigate Hardy Park zone. Mr. Thornburg mention that One Stop Shop was never designated as a Park and/or rezone as a park and is in discussion phases what the property will become in the future with city commission.

Board member Charlie Leikauf mention that Miami team is having trouble and Lockhart stadium will become their permanent site.

Mr. Thornburg stated it is a challenge and working through it and will be with the city for another 2-4 years. Mr. Thornburg stated it depends on how the negotiations goes with Miami. Mr. Thornburg stated that they still have a desire to be in Miami. Mr. Thornburg stated that someone is interested in bringing a professional team in Fort

Lauderdale and will train and practice on the site that is used for a park and play their games in the stadium. Mr. Thornburg stated that when Miami left the next tier down would have a team there and believes it is still the plan. Mr. Thornburg stated that the discussion for the women's team coming in was mention at the last city commission meeting.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum question why the women train on the main facility can't as oppose to the open space. Ms. Rosenbaum stated the open space supposed to be a park.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the discussion was discussed in the city commission meeting and not sure why they would need the open space to train. Mr. Thornburg stated they felt like they needed additional facilities and believe they are requesting to put buildings there; however, he is unsure at the moment.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated her concern was that the original agreement for the 20 acres were supposed to be for the residents of Fort Lauderdale to be paid and built by Miami and not for another training facility.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum also confirmed that it is her concern that the residents won't have an opportunity to use the area as a park space.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated it will have to be the resident's responsibility to voice their opinion.

Board member Mary Peloquin asked Mr. Thornburg about the funding "Y" and does someone wants to donate or is there a big donation for this.

Mr. Thornburg stated that they got donations for Sistrunk property and for Holiday Park and don't think they were getting the donations for what they hope; however, the CEO felt good about the donation and got a significant donation and looking forward to starting the project soon.

Chairman Caleb Gunter asked Mr. Thornburg if Lockhart was one of the signature projects in the bond for 200-million-dollars that was expressly design to the park space.

Mr. Thornburg confirmed that when the bond passed it was Intermiami. Mr. Thornburg stated it was 25 million dollars which was great amount of funding and then Intermiami came in; however, he confirmed that there is funding there.

Chairman Caleb Gunter asked Mr. Thornburg what will happen with the funding if they change directions of the plan and if there are other spaces in Fort Lauderdale that the city can inquire for the same size of 20 acres of property or land.

Mr. Thornburg responded that it's been a challenge searching for properties and at this time property is expensive and will be hard to find a large piece of property.

Chairman Caleb Gunter asked if there are other spaces close by the area near the stadium where they can build their own training facilities or find other areas to build their own space versus coming in the city and taking city property that are to be used by residents.

Mr. Thornburg responded that he can not answer that question; however, if the property is available then maybe.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated her concern is that their public lands are becoming private enterprise. Ms. Cummings stated that the city did not solicit anything and now they are in discussion of making One Stop Shop a private venue. Ms. Cummings stated that it is frustrating that they will agree for open park space and then take it back and change it to private enterprise.

Chairman Caleb Gunter stated that his concern is City residents being charged to come to a park and if they keep doing this the residents of Fort Lauderdale will be

investing in 100 million dollars into having parks they can't enter without paying commission.

Board member Charlie Leikauf asked if there any lots near the FAU center that is open for a park or land swap.

Mr. Thornburg stated that he is unaware of what is discussed; however, that property been in discussion for possible areas for multiple ideas. Mr. Thornburg mention he has not been in any discussion for the One Stop and Lockhart and when it becomes a Parks decision then he will be involved.

Mr. Charlie Leikauf asked about the lighting on South Beach park, and they are not working.

Deputy Director Enrique Sanchez stated that the maintenance staff is working on it and getting the lights to turn back on again.

Director Phil Thornburg mention to the board that most lights are FDO lights, County, City, and FPL lights. Mr. Thornburg stated they are working on a master plan to determine what lights are there and have control on knowing the status of the lights so they can get notification if the lights are out. Mr. Thornburg stated that the majority complaints are that the streetlights are out and wants to focus on the trends of the challenges the city face. Mr. Thornburg then stated that the city commission gave them a budget to work on the program and the master plan should be completed by

the end of the year so they can focus on the challenges that they are facing.

Mr. Charlie Leikauf asked if they are thinking about changing the lights to LED lights.

Mr. Thornburg confirmed yes, they are working on that.

Deputy Director Enrique Sanchez stated that they have completed a couple areas where the lights were converted and waiting for the completion of the master plan, because LED has a different spread and don't create dark spots if they are spread too far apart. Mr. Sanchez mention that LED is more concentrated, and they will go exactly where you want it. Mr. Sanchez stated once the plans are completed then they will move forward with the other locations.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated she noticed at George English Park that jet ski vendors would come and rent out and it would be about 24 jet skis at one time. Ms. Peloquin asked if there is a way they can easily determine if the vendors are permitted or approved.

Deputy Director Carl Williams stated that it has been a challenge for a long time and the challenge is the enforcement. Mr. Williams stated they have reviewed and toss ideas to mediate it; however, it will have to be seen in the act of exchanging funds. Mr. Williams stated they are a water sports rental vendor and looking forward to expanding to have a formal vendor there and anticipate the date of May or April of 2021.

Board member Gale Butler stated that she is aware that the people that live by the building by Audi and she has been there on the balcony and the noise is unbelievable. Ms. Butler stated that when its residential area it begins to be too much.

Mr. Williams stated that he is not aware of any contract services on the middle river, and he is aware that they have a vendor that is on the beach but not along the river.

Chairman Caleb Gunter stated that the Pickleball at Holiday Park was bought up today, a resident has emailed him and inquiring on how and where he can direct the resident and if he can direct the resident to the homeowner's association of Victoria Park.

Director Phil Thornburg stated he has spoke to the resident and aware of the issue. Mr. Thornburg stated he does not know how homeowner association work at Victoria Park; however, if he is not a resident, he is unsure if they would allow him to speak.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that meeting is for Victoria Park residents and don't think that would be the best fit.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that she has an ongoing discussion with Deputy Director Carl Williams regarding the chillers at Carter Park and want to know if we are discontinuing the agreement with the vendor.

Deputy Carl Williams stated that he is waiting on feedback from the procurement department. Mr. Williams stated that the current vendor has not been paid. Mr. Williams stated that their brushing and cracks that must be done. Mr. Williams stated that he will get back with the board on the name of the vendor and mention that they did a proposal, and the best quote was accepted.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated the purpose was for the children to have the pool for the summer.

Director Phil Thornburg mention that it is frustrating and is not easy to deal with contractors that don't provide a good service. Mr. Thornburg stated that it is a process that must be documented what they didn't do right, discontinue with them, and then go to another vendor that they can go to. Mr. Thornburg stated that the way the system is set up it doesn't happen fast or easily.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated they were taking more breaks than doing work.

Board member Charlie Leikauf asked if they must put in a bond to perform.

Director Phil Thornburg stated he doesn't know if the city has many performance bonds.

Deputy Director Enrique Sanchez stated if a project like this is simple, they don't do a performance bonds because it adds additional funds. Mr. Sanchez stated that some of them have bid bonds, but for a straightforward project those items will add cost

and delay to each project and occasionally, they do get a bad vendor. Mr. Sanchez stated that its unfortunate and try to work through it.

Board member Charlie Leikauf questioned the amount of the job.

Mr. Sanchez stated he doesn't have the amount on and, but it is a full surfacing job.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum asked about the Riverland project for the pool and if that is from the same vendor.

Deputy Director Carl Williams stated that they are moving forward with this process to fix the pool and get it operated and find a company that can do the work. Mr.

Williams stated that the company is EPR.

Board member Carey Villeneuve asked about the Joint Use Parks item was supposed to be on the agenda.

Deputy Director Carl Williams stated that it was pulled from the agenda because it was not ready to be presented.

Board member Carey Villeneuve recommends the board to contact their commissioners and mayor to discuss their concern with the One Stop Shop. Mr. Villeneuve believes that the best place to make your voice heard and to text or call the commissioners.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated that its important that the board pay attention and contact their commissioners and discuss their concerns. Ms. Peloquin stated individuals and letters will also carry a lot of weight.

4. Communication to the Commission

There were no communication to the commission.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.